

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1 – 21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (currently amended) A rotary sprinkler comprising

a rotor with an axle having a tip~~[[, and]]~~;

a thrust bearing ~~[[with]]~~ comprising a socket having a bottom for receiving for rotation the axle~~[[,]]~~;

~~said socket being adapted to receive for rotation said axle so that said tip abuts said bottom~~ the socket having a bottom that, during operation of the rotary sprinkler, abuts the tip of the axle in a contact zone~~[[,]]~~; and

~~wherein said sprinkler further comprises a hard element constituting at least a part of~~ [[said]] the bottom including [[said]] the contact zone, [[said]] the hard element being made of comprising a harder material than [[said]] the tip, wherein [[said]] the hard element has a concave surface in the contact zone.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 22, wherein ~~[[said]] the tip is made of~~ comprises plastic.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 23, wherein ~~[[said]] the rotor with the axle and the tip is one integrally molded plastic part.~~

Claim 25 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 22, wherein ~~[[said]] the hard element~~ [[has]] comprises a polished surface in the contact zone.

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises industrial sapphire stone.

Claim 28 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises industrial ruby stone.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of ceramics~~ comprises a ceramic.

Claim 30 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises glass.

Claim 31 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element ~~is made of~~ comprises stainless steel.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22, wherein [[said]] the hard element is formed as a plate or as a ball.

Claim 33 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 32, wherein [[said]] the hard element is a stainless steel ball locked in the bottom of [[said]] the socket.

Claim 34 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 33, wherein [[said]] the tip is concave.

Claim 35 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 22,
wherein [[said]] the socket has an inlet opening of diameter D0 and a peripheral wall
between [[said]] the inlet opening and [[said]] the bottom,

[[said]] the socket being adapted to receive configured for slidably [[said]] receiving the
axle through [[said]] the inlet opening,

wherein [[said]] the tip has a diameter D1 close to less than or equal to D0 while and
an adjacent portion of [[said]] the axle has diameter $D2 < D1$, such that, when said tip abuts
said bottom, an open annular gap is formed between axle and peripheral wall and when tip is
aligned with inlet opening, inlet opening is essentially closed, wherein when the tip and the
inlet opening are in a coplanar relationship, the tip is in annular contact with the inlet opening.

Claim 36 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 35, wherein [[said]] the
rotor is ~~adapted to slide, under~~ configured for sliding in response to water flow action, into a
position wherein [[said]] the tip abuts [[said]] the bottom, and the rotor is configured for sliding
~~is adapted to slide back~~, in absence of water flow, into a position wherein [[said]] the tip is
aligned with [[said]] the inlet opening.

Claim 37 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 36, wherein [[said]] the
sprinkler is ~~adapted to operate~~ configured for operating with [[said]] the socket disposed
above [[said]] the rotor.

Claim 38 (currently amended) The rotary sprinkler of [[Claim]] claim 35, wherein [[said]] the
tip is ~~formed as one of the following:~~ selected from the group consisting of

- a ball,
- a cylinder,
- a cone,
- a disc, [[or]] and
- another body of rotation.

Claim 39 (currently amended) A hard element for use in a rotary sprinkler comprising
a rotor [[with]] comprising an axle having a tip, and a thrust bearing [[with]] comprising
a socket for receiving for rotation the axle, the socket having a bottom that abuts the tip of the

~~axle during operation of the rotary sprinkler said socket receiving said axle for rotation so that tip abuts bottom,~~

~~[[said]] the hard element comprising: being formed for fixing in said bottom, being made of~~

~~a harder material than [[said]] the tip, and the hard element having a concave contact surface to meet said for engaging the tip, wherein said contact surface is concave the hard element is fixed in the bottom of the socket.~~

Claim 40 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, wherein [[said]] the contact surface is polished.

Claim 41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, formed as a plate.

Claim 43 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising industrial sapphire stone.

Claim 44 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising industrial ruby stone.

Claim 45 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising a ceramic ceramics.

Claim 46 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising glass.

Claim 47 (currently amended) The hard element of [[Claim]] claim 39, ~~made of~~ comprising stainless steel.